

-- ABSTRACT

Methods of introducing genetic material into cells of an individual and compositions and kits for practicing the same are disclosed. The methods comprise the steps of contacting cells of an individual with a polynucleotide function enhancer and administering to the cells, a nucleic acid molecule that is free of retroviral particles. The nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes a protein that comprises at least one epitope that is identical or substantially similar to an epitope of a pathogen antigen or an antigen associated with a hyperproliferative or autoimmune disease, a protein otherwise missing from the individual due to a missing, non-functional, or partially functioning gene, or a protein that produces a therapeutic effect on an individual. Methods of prophylactically and therapeutically immunizing an individual against HIV are disclosed. Pharmaceutical compositions and kits for practicing methods of the present invention are disclosed. [--]

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 60-62, 65, 66, 73, 74, 77-83, 87-93, and 97-114 without prejudice, amend claims 58, 63, 67, 75, 84, and 94 as follows, and add new claims 122-147 as follows.

58 (Amended). A pharmaceutical composition comprising: